

What is claimed is:

1. An excess-port network switch comprising:

a plurality of ports configured to receive and transmit data, wherein each port is adapted to have a respective configured throughput; and

5 a switch fabric configured to route said data between said plurality of ports and also configured to have a predetermined throughput, wherein said predetermined throughput is less than a total of said respective configured throughputs of said plurality of ports.

2. The switch according to claim 1, further comprising:

10 a controller configured to interface with said plurality of ports, wherein said controller is also configured to enable and disable at least one port of said plurality of ports.

3. The switch according to claim 2, further comprising:

15 a temperature sensor included in each port of said plurality of ports, wherein said controller is configured to disable said at least one port of said plurality of ports in response to said respective temperature sensor sensing a temperature exceeding a temperature limit.

4. The switch according to claim 2, wherein said controller is also configured to

remove or apply power to at least one port of said plurality of ports.

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5. The switch according to claim 2 wherein said controller is also configured to

selectively enable and disable a sub-plurality of said plurality of ports in response to data packet traffic rate being compared to a threshold rate.

6. The switch according to claim 2, wherein said controller is configured to interface with said switch fabric.

5 7. The switch according to claim 6, wherein said controller is further configured to operate a sub-plurality of said plurality of ports as a zone.

8. The switch according to claim 1, wherein at least one port of said plurality of ports is configured to disable itself in response to an error condition.

10 9. The switch according to claim 8, wherein said error condition is an internal temperature of said at least one port exceeding a temperature limit.

10. An excess-port network switch comprising:
15 a plurality of ports configured to receive and transmit data, wherein each port of said plurality of ports has a respective projected throughput; and
a switch fabric configured to route said data between said plurality of ports and configured to have a predetermined throughput, wherein said predetermined throughput is less than a total of said respective projected throughputs of said plurality of ports.

20 11. The switch according to claim 10, further comprising:
a controller configured to interface with said plurality of ports, wherein said controller is configured to enable and disable at least one port of said plurality of ports.

12. The switch according to claim 11, further comprising:

a temperature sensor included in each port of said plurality of ports, wherein said controller is configured to disable said at least one port of said plurality of ports in response to
5 respective temperature sensor sensing a temperature exceeding a temperature limit.

13. The switch according to claim 11, wherein said controller is configured to remove or apply power to at least one port of said plurality of ports.

10 14. The switch according to claim 11 wherein said controller is also configured to selectively enable and disable a sub-plurality of ports of said plurality of ports in response to data packet traffic.

15 15. The switch according to claim 11, wherein said controller is configured to interface with said switch fabric.

16. The switch according to claim 15, wherein said controller is further configured to operate a sub-plurality of said plurality of ports as a zone.

20 17. The switch according to claim 10, wherein at least one port of said plurality of ports is configured to disable itself in response to an error condition.

18. The switch according to claim 17, wherein said error condition is an internal

temperature of said at least one port exceeding a temperature limit.

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